

THIRTEENTH
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Walsall Rural Sanitary District

FOR THE

Year ending December 31st, 1894.

BY

JOHN WOOD, M.B., M.A., OXON.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Walsall :

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To the Walsall Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Thirteenth Annual Report of the Health and Sanitary condition of the Walsall Rural Sanitary District, for the year ending December 31st, 1894.

The Population of the entire District, calculated on the rate of increase between 1881 and 1891—and estimated to the middle of the year, was 9,869. The natural increase of population during 1894, or the excess of births over deaths was 194—shewing a considerable increase as compared with last year, which was 151.

Population.

The Births registered during the year were 330, of which 156 were males, and 174 females, giving a birth rate of 33·43 per 1,000 per annum, as compared with 36·9 in 1893.

Births.
Birth Rate.

The total number of Deaths recorded in the whole of the District during the year was 136, against 207 in the previous year. Of these 69 were males and 67 females.

Deaths.

The rate of mortality from all causes for the year 1894, was 13·79 per 1,000.

Death Rate.

I have great pleasure in calling attention to this unusually low death rate as compared with former years. It is the lowest recorded for over 10 years past.

Sixty-two deaths occurred in children under 5 years of age.

The Infantile death rate is, I am glad to say, much lower than the previous year. Forty-seven infants under 1 year of age died, as compared with 72 in 1893. The rate of infant mortality is usually measured by the proportion of deaths under 1 year to births registered, and is also expressed as so many per 1,000. The Infantile death rate therefore estimated in this way will be 142·4 against 201·1 last year.

Infantile
Death Rate.

Zymotic
Death Rate.

The number of deaths from the principal zymotic diseases was 13 against 28 in 1893, and included 2 each from small pox and scarlet fever, 3 each from whooping cough and diarrhœa, and 1 each from diphtheria, typhoid fever and erysipelas.

This gives the extraordinary low annual rate of 1·31 per 1,000 of the entire population, as compared with 2·8 in 1893—and is the lowest recorded zymotic death rate for our District during the last 12 years.

Scarlet Fever.

During the whole of the year occasional cases of scarlet fever kept cropping up at intervals of a few weeks—in some portion of the district, for the most part of a mild type. There were 26 cases in all reported under the Compulsory Notification Act—occurring in 16 houses, as compared with 52 last year. This disease was accountable for 2 deaths.

As I have pointed out before, we can never expect to be free from the presence of this disease for long together, until the Borough Authorities have made provision for the isolation of such cases in the town; as the disease constantly keeps breaking out, and will continue to do so with greater frequency, as the population grows. It is quite impossible to keep it from spreading without efficient means of isolation, such as can only be secured by a well equipped Hospital, and proper disinfecting apparatus. Owing to the continued disregard of the Municipal body to do this, we are constantly liable to the introduction of the disease amongst us.

Typhoid Fever

Three cases of Typhoid fever were notified, viz :—2 at Pelsall in March, and 1 at Daw End in June. Of the two cases at Pelsall, one occurred in Delhi Row, and the other in a house opposite, the inmates of which were related to those living in Delhi Row. There is little doubt the disease was contracted from this source, as the outbuildings were in a very unsatisfactory state, the ashpits being large and deep containing much liquid filth, in addition to being dilapidated. In the case that was reported from Daw End, I found grave sanitary defects, in respect of the drainage, and the ashpits to which I called attention at the time.

One case of Diphtheria was reported which terminated fatally. This occurred at Pelsall in November, and was caused in my opinion by the unsanitary surroundings arising from the keeping of pigs in too confined a state, and in too close proximity to the back of the house, as well as defective drainage.

Diphtheria.

There were 5 cases of Small Pox convalescent in the Hospital at the end of 1893. Twelve cases were reported during 1894. Three broke out in January, in Stubber's Green, Great Barr, and Pelsall. Another occurred in March, after the Hospital had been closed. Five fresh cases appeared in April, at Great Barr and Aldridge. In June, three broke out at Bentley, being imported from Willenhall, where the epidemic was in a severe form. These necessitated the re-opening of the Hospital a second time. Nine patients availed themselves of the advantages of the Hospital, and two deaths resulted from this disease, one in an unvaccinated infant, and the other in an adult on whom no vaccination marks were discernible.

Small Pox.

As our tenancy of Copy Hall expires next Lady-day, I think it advisable that the question of maintaining a place where we can at least isolate Small Pox, should be immediately taken into consideration. Though this is a disease which only occasionally makes its appearance, still it is one which demands prompt action and immediate separation, and our past experience demonstrates the necessity of having some place—if even only a cottage—suitable for the purpose and always available.

Isolation
Hospital.

By the exercise of the powers recently entrusted to County Councils by the Isolation Hospital Act, 1893, they can now bring pressure to bear upon Authorities, and, if they think fit, assist them in providing the necessary means for dealing with infectious cases.

Isolation
Hospital Acts,
1893,
(56 & 57 Vict.
ch. 68-)

County Councils are empowered to provide or "cause to be provided hospitals for the isolation of infectious cases, on application by petition being made to them to the effect that the necessity for such exists. This application may be made by one or more

Sec. 3.

- Sec. 6. Local Authorities, or by twenty-five Ratepayers in a "contributory place"; also a County Medical Officer, provided he has been instructed by his Council to enquire "as to the necessity of an Isolation Hospital being established for the use of the inhabitants of any particular District in the County," shall report accordingly
- Sec. 8. Provision is made under this Act for the construction of Hospital Districts, consisting of one or more local areas under the management of a committee, consisting either wholly of Members of the County Council, or jointly of the County Council and Local Authorities, or wholly of Local Authorities with powers to acquire loans, and provide a Hospital and train Nurses for attendance on
- Sec. 10. patients suffering from any infectious disease either inside or outside the Hospital. A County Council may, where they deem
- Sec. 15. it expedient so to do, for the benefit of the County contribute out of the County Rate a capital or annual sum towards the structural and establishment expenses of an Isolation Hospital, or to either
- Sec. 21. class of such expenses.

In any scheme which may be adopted, it is laid down as a principle that small pox cases may not be isolated in the same Hospital or under the same administration as other cases. Already intimation has been given you that this question is under the consideration of the County Council, and the various Authorities in the County have been communicated with, with a view to the calling of a Conference at which the position of matters will be explained.

As it is the primary duty of Sanitary Authorities to protect the public from Infectious Diseases, and in view of the powers recently conferred on County Councils under the above mentioned Act, it is certain that this question will come before us very soon. I would, however, respectfully recommend that no immediate action be taken by the Walsall Rural District Council till after the ventilation of the subject at the proposed Conference, when you will have an opportunity of considering how far it will be to your interests to co-operate in a comprehensive scheme.

A considerable number of New Houses have been erected during the year on Rodney Croft, and the Common, Pelsall, at Rushall Village, and New Aldridge. At the latter parish, several old dilapidated houses have been demolished. and new ones built in their place. The plans for all have been submitted for examination by the Surveyor, and after being found in accordance with the Bye-laws have been passed by the Authority.

New Buildings

Complaints continue to be made, that in the emptying of middens, the solids are taken, and the liquid too frequently left. I confess, I wish your Council could see you way to undertake this important work on your own account.

Scavenging.

Improvements have been effected in respect of drainage at Pelsall and Rushall.

Drainage.

A considerable portion of Pelsall, and Heath End, is sewered by means of 12-inch pipes, discharging into ditches below the Railway, and finding its way into the brook, many of these ditches are polluted. At Heath End, a large number of houses drain into catch pits close to the doors of the houses, which are a source of danger to health. The cottages near Pelsall Foundry drain into a ditch, which is extremely foul and thence to the stream. At White Hollies, no drainage whatever is provided, and the cottages to the West of Pelsall Wood Common, drain into the ditch at the back which is close to the houses, and in a foul state—eventually finding its way on to the common.

Pelsall.

The Drainage of the village of Rushall is at present provided for by 12-inch pipe sewers which discharge either into the stream or into ditches.

Rushall.

Catch pits are provided on some of the main sewers, in order to intercept solids. The existing drain down the Back-lane at Daw End is too shallow to take the houses at the top end.

Rushall and
Pelsall
Sewerage.

Owing to the pollution of the stream and the action taken by Riparian Owners in connection therewith, your Council have called in Mr. J. E. Wilcox, C.E., of Birmingham, to report and advise upon the question of Sewerage and Sewage disposal for these parishes.

Briefly described, the scheme proposed by Mr. Wilcox, is as follows :—

Dealing first with the village of Rushall, owing to the levels the sewage cannot be delivered by gravitation on to any land suitable for irrigation. It is therefore necessary to have recourse to pumping. It is proposed therefore to provide a Pumping Station near existing outlet of main sewer by the bridge over the stream, where suitable plant will be provided for raising the sewage to the proposed outfall works.

From the Pumping Station a new sewer will be laid across fields to Lichfield Road, to intercept the sewage from New Street and the North-end of the village.

As far as possible, the existing sewers will be utilized for the remainder of the village, and Daw End, new branch sewers being provided where necessary. The rising main will be taken from the Pumping Station to the outfall works near Goscote Lodge Farm, and here the sewage from both Pelsall and Rushall will be treated.

The Pelsall main intercepting sewer starts from the outfall works, and is taken past Brewer's Farm, and along main road to near Pelsall Station, where it turns across fields to west of Railwood Coppice to Colliery Siding, thus avoiding a deep cutting near Queen's Hotel, which would be necessary if taken along road.

From the siding, the pipes will be continued across the Walsall Wood Colliery Co.'s property to York's Foundry, with branches to Highbridge Row, and houses east of Pelsall Wood Common near the Grove and White Hollies.

Branch sewers will be laid to drain all houses in Heath End with the exception of about 20 houses near Leigh's Wood Junction, and 5 cottages near Pelsall Station. These are provided for by means of a low level sewer to the Rushall Pumping Station. From near Pelsall Station a pipe sewer will be taken along road to Queen's Hotel, where this will receive the sewage from all the higher parts of the District.

There is however a group of houses on the west of Pelsall Common which are at too low a level to be drained into the main system of sewers, but which may be conveniently drained to other sewage dealt with on Mr. Charles's land near the canal.

There are also a few cottages near Pelsall Foundry, which would add considerably to the cost of the scheme if included in it, and which may in consequence be dealt with separately.

It is proposed to adopt the Separate system of sewerage, all surface water being excluded, thus reducing cost, not only of sewers, but of outfall works, and dealing with sewage.

Man-holes, lamp-holes, ventilating shafts and flushing chambers will be provided where necessary.

The system proposed to be adopted is the most approved chemical precipitation and filtration process, which will consist of (1) admixture of the sewage with a chemical precipitant and deoderant and precipitation in tanks ; (2) the passing of the tank effluent through a specially constructed filter bed—after which the filtered effluent is allowed to flow into the stream, or may, if desired, be conveyed to the irrigation area for further treatment.

Sewage
Disposal.

This system has been very successfully adopted for various other towns, and largely reduces the area of land required for irrigation purposes. The precipitating tanks are two in number, and can be worked on the continuous or quiescent system, and arrangements are made by which the tank effluent can be discharged on the filter beds, or on to the irrigation area as desired. The

Filter beds are four in number, and the effluent from these can be discharged direct to the stream, or on to the land, the effluent being distributed by means of carriers from which any portion of the land can be irrigated.

Water Supply During the year the South Staffordshire Water Works water was laid on to 37 houses at Pelsall, 7 at Rushall and Daw End, 8 at Great Barr, and 4 at Aldridge.

In conclusion, I desire gratefully to acknowledge the support and assistance that I have invariably met with at your hands in the discharge of the duties of my office, and beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN WOOD.

FEB. 18TH, 1895.

Middle of Year.	Population.	Births.	Deaths.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic Death Rate.	D'ths under 1 Year to 1,000 Births.
1885	9134	348	133	38.09	14.5	1.4	114.9
1886	9282	314	175	33.8	19.1	3.9	175.1
1887	9431	336	137	35.6	15.0	2.2	110.1
1888	9579	359	153	37.47	15.65	1.77	142.0
1889	9727	344	136	35.36	13.98	1.64	130.8
1890	9948	369	152	37.09	15.28	1.30	140.9
1891	9375	357	156	38.08	16.64	2.66	142.8
1892	9515	350	167	36.78	17.55	2.7	142.8
1893	9692	358	207	36.9	21.3	2.8	201.1
1894	9869	330	136	33.43	13.79	1.31	142.4

TABLE B.—New Cases of INFECTIOUS SICKNESS coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1894, enumerating the Number of Houses Infected, the Total Number of Deaths, also the Number of Cases Treated and the Deaths that occurred in Infectious Hospitals.

		Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever	Erysipelas.	Whooping Cough.
Houses Infected.....		9	16	1	3	3	0
Total Cases reported among persons belonging to District.....	Under 5 5 and upwards.	2 10	7 17	0 1	0 3	1 2	0 0
Total Deaths reported among persons belonging to District	Under 5 5 and upwards.	1 1	0 2	0 1	0 1	1 0	3 0
Cases treated in Hospital among persons belonging to District.....	Under 5 5 and upwards.	1 8	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Deaths occurring in Hospital among persons belonging to District	Under 5 5 and upwards.	1 1	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0

Rural Sanitary District of Walsall Union,

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK done in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department during the year 1894, in the Staffordshire portion of the Rural Sanitary District of Walsall.

	Inspections and Observations made.	Formal Notices by Authority.	Nuisances Abated after Notice.
Dwelling-houses and Schools :—			
Foul Conditions	3	...	3
Structural Defects	6	1	6
Over-crowding	3	...	3
Dairies and Milkshops	35	...	...
Cowsheds	57	...	...
Slaughter-houses	10	...	...
Canal Boats... ..	13	...	...
Ashpits and Privies	201	.	...
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	9	...	...
Water Closets	5	...	...
House Drainage :—			
Defective Traps	21	...	...
Other Faults (to Connect with Main Sewer)	3	3	1
Pigsties	28	...	...
Animals, Pigeons and Fowls } improperly kept. }	5	...	...
TOTALS	399	4	13

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

	Nos.
House Disinfected after Infectious Disease	3

JOHN GARBETT,

FEB. 5th, 1895.

Inspector of Nuisances.

TABLE A.—DEATHS registered during the Year 1894, classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities; showing also the Population of such Localities and the Births therein during the year.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as Separate Localities.	Population		Registered Births.			Death from all causes at subjoined ages.									Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing deaths of Children under 5 years of age.																					
	Census, 1891	Estimated to Middle of 1894	Males.	Females.	Total.	At all Ages.			Under 1 year.	Under 5 years and under 15.	15 years and under 25.	25 years and under 65.	65 years and upwards.	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Fevers.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea or Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Ague.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.		
						Males.	Females.	Total.										Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.														
PELSALL.....	3364	3506	61	69	130	34	21	55	20	9	4	4	11	7	Under 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	8	0	1	16
															5 upwards	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	5	4	4	9	
ALDRIDGE	2206	2325	30	40	70	11	17	28	5	3	1	1	9	9	Under 5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	5	
															5 upwards	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	2	2	11		
GREAT BARR.....	1388	1486	15	16	31	9	7	16	4	0	1	1	7	3	Under 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	
															5 upwards	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	4	0	3		
RUSHALL	2006	2184	38	43	81	12	21	33	16	3	2	1	7	4	Under 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	9	0	0	8		
															5 upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	9			
BENTLEY.....	355	368	12	6	18	3	1	4	2	0	0	0	1	1	Under 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
															5 upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1			
TOTALS	9319	9869	156	174	330	69	67	136	47	15	8	7	35	24		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Deaths occurring outside the District among persons belonging thereto.						4	2	6	0	0	0	1	0	5	Under 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
															5 upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5		



